

REMARKS

Reconsideration and continued examination of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are pending, wherein claims 1-3 and 6 and 7 are amended.

Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,313,886 to Sugiyama ("Sugiyama") and U.S. Patent No. 6,483,547 to Eyer ("Eyer"). Claims 4 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of Sugiyama and U.S. Patent No. 6,490,001 to Shintani et al. ("Shintani"). These grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Shepard for his time and courtesy during the personal interview with the undersigned on October 27, 2006. Claims 1-3 and 6 and 7 are amended in the manner discussed during the personal interview. As agreed during the personal interview, these amended claims are patentably distinguishable over the current grounds of rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

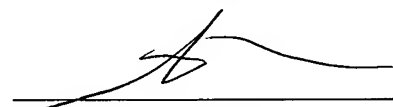
If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

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If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #010482.50895).

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Respectfully submitted,



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